

REPORT ON OFFICER'S DUTIES IN REGARDS TO OSWALD'S MURDER

L. C. GRAVES - #702

Sunday, November 24, 1963, was the day set for the transfer of Lee Harvey Oswald to the County Jail. The time set for the transfer was 10:00 AM. Shortly before 9:30 AM, J. R. Leavelle, C. N. Dhority, and I brought Oswald down from the fifth floor jail for final questioning by Capt. Frits, Agents Sorrel and Kelly from the Secret Service. Others present during the questioning were Mr. Holmes from the U. S. Post Office Department, Detectives L. D. Montgomery, C. N. Dhority, J. R. Leavelle, and I. Chief Curry was present only a few minutes at the beginning of the questioning and at the end just prior to Oswald's removal to the basement. Before leaving our office with Oswald, Capt. Frits instructed J. R. Leavelle to handcuff his left arm to the right arm of Oswald. I was to walk by Oswald's left side, holding his left arm. Oswald's hands were handcuffed together in front of him. Det. Leavelle, Oswald, and I were escorted from this office via the jail elevator to the jail office by Capt. Frits, Lt. Swain, and Det. L. D. Montgomery. At the jail office door that leads into the hall, we stopped for a few seconds until Capt. Frits and Lt. Swain made sure the hall-way was clear. We got the all clear sign and made our way through the hall to the edge of the ramp where we had paused momentarily awaiting the arrival of our car, when suddenly out of the surging line of camera men and glaring camera lights, Jack Ruby sprang forward and fired one round from a pistol into the stomach of Lee Harvey Oswald before I could grab his pistol and disarm him.

Oswald was immediately placed in an O'Neal ambulance and rushed to Parkland Hospital, where he underwent surgery within 10 minutes after his

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arrival. Oswald was pronounced dead at 1:07 PM, November 24, 1963, by Dr. Tom Shiras, Parkland Staff. Detectives J. R. Leavelle, Burgess, and I, along with Dr. Pieberdorf, rode in the ambulance with Oswald to Parkland. At the hospital I changed into operating room clothing and accompanied Oswald to the Operating Room and stood guard until he was pronounced dead.

The pistol I took from Jack Ruby was turned over to Capt. Fritz at Parkland Hospital.